

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 740

By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to commend the Pleasant Valley Farm upon being honored with the Maury Alliance Century Farm of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute that most noble agricultural institution, the family farm, which serves as a cornerstone for our communities while bringing credit and acclaim to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy family farm is the Pleasant Valley Farm, once known as the Erwin Brothers Dairy Farm, which was recently honored as the Maury Alliance's Century Farm of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the Century Farm Program was established to recognize the dedication and contributions of those families that have retained ownership of the same farm for more than a century, persevering through succeeding generations as they have coped with wars, floods, droughts, economic crises, and other obstacles presented by way of natural and human intervention; and

WHEREAS, while deed records date the Erwin family's possession of the farm since December 5, 1900, family records indicate the farm has been in possession of the Erwin family since before 1836; and

WHEREAS, having settled in Maury County before 1818, Jonas E. Erwin and his family were recognized as a "First Families of Maury County, Tennessee--Pioneer Class"; and

WHEREAS, On May 19, 1927, the State of Tennessee Acts of the General Assembly of 1925, Senate Bill 304, Chapter 34 registered the name of the Erwin family farm as "Pleasant Valley"; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, a number of crops and livestock have been raised on the farm: alfalfa and mixtures of grass hay, corn, wheat, oats, burley tobacco, various fruits and

vegetables, dairy and beef cattle, turkeys and other poultry, sheep, hogs, horses, and mules;
and

WHEREAS, the Erwin family is well known for its commitment and dedication to wildlife, soil, and water conservation; and

WHEREAS, from 1945 to 1996, Pleasant Valley Farm was known as the "Erwin Brothers Dairy Farm," upon their return from World War II, Eugene and J. B. Erwin founded the dairy, first as a Grade B producer before quickly moving to a Grade A producer; and

WHEREAS, many members of the Erwin family have honorably and courageously defended and protected our Nation in the armed forces, with many Erwin men serving and even sacrificing their lives in the Revolutionary War, Indian War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the Erwins have further served their community as public servants in numerous capacities; during Jonas H. Erwin's tenure as the operator of Pleasant Valley Farm from 1900 to 1939, he also served as the deputy sheriff for Maury County, while Eugene and J.B. Erwin honorably served Maury County as magistrates for an accumulated thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2004, the Tennessee Century Farms Program, in conjunction with the Center for Historic Preservation of Middle Tennessee State University, recognized Pleasant Valley Farm as a Tennessee Century Farm; and

WHEREAS, today, there are nine direct descendants of the Erwin family living on the farm, including three seventh-generation children; and

WHEREAS, the many generations of the Erwin family epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the members of the Erwin family for their dedication to farming, recognizing the importance of the family farm to our communities and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Pleasant Valley Farm upon its receipt of the Century Farm of the Year Award, presented by the Maury Alliance, in honor of its contributions to the agribusiness industry in Maury County, as we extend to the Erwin family our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.